USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service

Indiana Crop & Weather Report

Released: May 17, 2010
Vol. 60, WC051710

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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 16

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Very little field work was accomplished during the week due to persistent rain showers, according to the Indiana Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Planting of corn is running about 12 days ahead of the 5-year average pace, and soybean planting is about 5 days ahead of the 5-year average. Some corn acreage will need to be replanted due to flooding in low lying areas and also poor emergence due to the recent cool, wet weather. A limited amount of soybean acreage will need to be replanted because of frost damage in some of our northern most counties. Farmers will begin taking the first cutting of hay as soon as weather permits.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were 2.0 **days suitable for field work**. Eighty-six percent of the intended **corn** acreage has been **planted** compared with 22 percent last year and 68 percent for the 5-year average. By area, 87 percent of the crop has been planted in the north, 91 percent in the central region, and 75 percent in the south. Sixty-nine percent of the corn acreage has **emerged** compared with 7 percent last year and 37 percent for the 5-year average. Forty-six percent of the intended **soybean** acreage has been **planted** compared with 5 percent last year and 35 percent for the 5-year average.

Fifty percent of the **winter wheat** crop is **headed** compared with 36 percent last year and 41 percent for the 5-year average. Winter wheat **condition** is rated 70 percent good to excellent compared with 77 percent last year at this time.

Major activities during the week included: nitrogen applications, repairing equipment, spraying herbicides, mowing roadsides and ditches, moving grain to market and taking care of livestock.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Pasture condition is rated 79 percent good to excellent compared with 76 percent last year. Pastures and hay crops have experienced exceptional growth thus far this spring. Livestock remain in mostly good condition.

CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg.
	Percent			
Corn Planted	86	81	22	68
Corn Emerged	69	52	7	37
Soybeans Planted	46	35	5	35
Soybeans Emerged	23	9	0	8
Winter Wheat Jointed	97	91	91	96
Winter Wheat Headed	50	14	36	41

CROP CONDITION TABLE

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel-lent
		Percent			
Corn	1	3	27	53	16
Pasture	0	2	19	53	26
Winter Wheat	1	3	26	54	16

SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

Soil Moisture	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
		Percent	
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	0	2	0
Adequate	56	68	27
Surplus	44	30	73
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	2	2	1
Adequate	72	80	43
Surplus	26	18	56
Days Suitable	2.0	3.1	1.7

CONTACT INFORMATION
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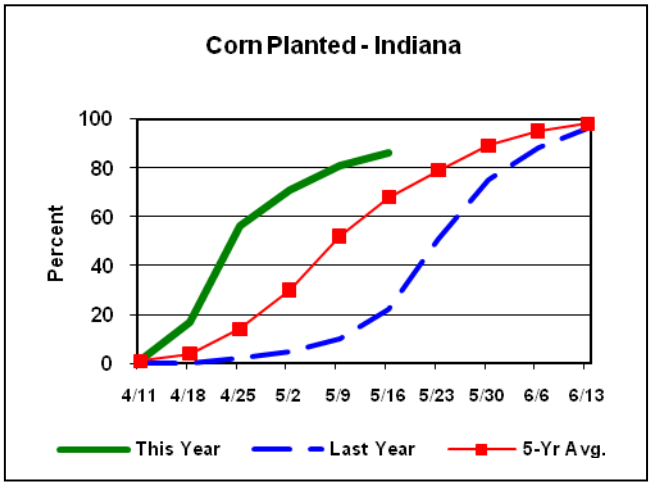
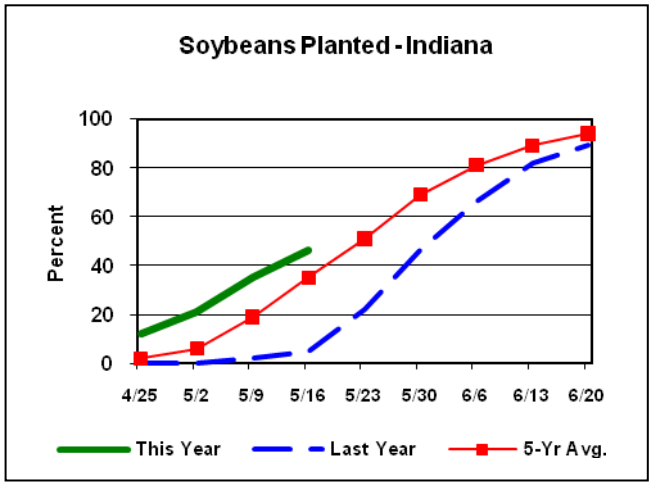
http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Indiana/

Crop Progress





Other Agricultural Comments And News

Corn and the Ugly Duckling

Published May 2010

URL: http://www.kingcorn.org/news/timeless/UglyDuckling.html

- Ugly ducklings can change into beautiful swans.
- The story needs re-telling every so often

Every year, for the first five weeks or so after corn planting is finished, the guys down at the Chat 'n Chew Cafe complain royally about the looks of the crop. It does not matter whether it was an early planting season or a late planting season. Gripes about uneven stands, poor color, and slow growth waft over the tables as everyone airs their concerns about the looks of their neighbors' fields.

Then suddenly one day, the tone of the conversation in between the coffee and sweet rolls perks up. Almost overnight, the crop has taken off like a rocket. The color of the leaves turns a dark, almost-blue green and they develop a distinct shine. From that point on, any connoisseur of corn feels better about life in general.

Why does this transition seem to happen over and over again every year?

During the first five weeks or so after planting, the corn plant is going about the business of creating all of the leaves it will ever have. A few of these leaves are visible, but most are wrapped tightly deep inside the whorl, biding their time until it is their turn to emerge.

Some root development is also occurring during these same first five weeks. In fact, the successful development of the first three or four sets of nodal roots during this time will go a long ways to ensuring successful stand establishment of the crop.

Even though new leaves and some roots are developing during this time, the rate of increase in total plant dry matter is relatively slow. The photosynthetic "factory" is small, as is the size of the raw material accumulator devices (aka, the roots).

Up until about the three leaf stage (determined by number of visible leaf collars), corn seedlings are

A 2-leaf stage corn seedling with a yellow-green appearance indicative of 'crappy' growing conditions.

dependent primarily on the energy and nutrition reserves of the kernel to sustain their development. Beyond the three leaf stage, seedlings increasingly "wean" themselves from the kernel reserves and slowly become more dependent on the developing nodal root system.

READ THIS. During this important transition from dependence on kernel reserves to dependence on the nodal root system, corn seedlings are easily sidetracked when growing conditions are not adequate for maximum photosynthesis and rapid development of the nodal root system. Consequently, the appearance of corn seedlings during these early leaf stages can be downright ugly during extended periods of cloudy, cool weather. Throw in some excessively wet soils plus a little soil compaction plus a pinch of frost damage and you have a good start on a recipe for "crappy" stands of corn. The best remedy for most fields of yellow-green corn seedlings suffering from the effect of "crappy" growing conditions is the return of ample sunshine and warmth.

This period of transition during "crappy" growing conditions is exactly when that band of starter fertilizer you placed 2 inches over and 2 inches below the seed

(Continued on Back Page)

Weather Information Table

Week Ending Sunday May 16, 2010

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
								April 1, 2010 thru May 16, 2010				
	Air Temperature				Precip.		Avg 4 in Soil Temp	Precipitation			GDD Base 50°F	
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days		Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
Northwest (1)												
Chalmers_5W	81	34	55	-7	1.58	4		7.02	+1.31	19	342	+65
Francesville	80	36	55	-5	1.66	4		6.22	+0.75	18	333	+100
Valparaiso_AP_I	80	33	54	-6	2.68	4		7.54	+1.60	19	333	+116
Wanatah	80	30	53	-5	1.73	4	56	6.22	+0.52	19	287	+105
Winamac	80	35	55	-5	1.80	5		6.35	+0.88	18	355	+122
North Central (2)												
Plymouth	80	33	54	-7	2.04	4		6.26	+0.44	18	304	+56
South_Bend	80	33	52	-7	1.47	4		6.13	+0.67	19	321	+120
Young_America	81	36	56	-5	2.13	4		6.29	+0.90	15	358	+131
Northeast (3)												
Fort_Wayne	83	34	57	-3	2.19	5		6.71	+1.57	21	425	+211
Kendallville	77	34	52	-7	1.42	5		4.52	-0.66	22	283	+79
West Central (4)												
Greencastle	80	32	57	-5	1.65	5		5.04	-1.12	17	384	+75
Perrysville	83	40	60	-1	1.26	4	64	4.97	-0.98	18	460	+195
Spencer_Ag	80	34	59	-3	1.42	4		8.43	+1.92	21	429	+159
Terre_Haute_AFB	81	40	62	+0	1.29	5		7.27	+1.01	20	506	+199
W_Lafayette_6NW	82	38	57	-3	1.57	4	62	5.28	-0.51	16	405	+172
Central (5)												
Eagle_Creek_AP	81	38	61	-2	1.24	4		5.38	-0.40	17	518	+222
Greenfield	81	37	59	-2	1.77	5		6.58	+0.26	18	436	+176
Indianapolis_AP	83	42	62	+0	1.14	4		5.57	-0.21	17	546	+250
Indianapolis_SE	80	38	58	-4	1.35	4		5.92	-0.19	18	436	+157
Tipton_Ag	82	35	57	-3	1.47	5	61	4.71	-1.21	20	387	+183
East Central (6)												
Farmland	82	32	57	-3	1.29	4	60	5.38	-0.11	21	390	+194
New_Castle	81	33	57	-3	1.42	4		6.24	-0.15	18	381	+179
Southwest (7)												
Evansville	83	44	67	+3	0.07	3		5.98	-0.54	18	624	+203
Freelandville	81	39	62	-1	1.93	5		7.84	+1.35	20	532	+202
Shoals_8S	82	35	62	+0	1.43	3		7.41	+0.58	15	457	+136
Stendal	83	41	66	+3	0.55	2		6.58	-0.55	15	656	+286
Vincennes_5NE	84	43	64	+2	2.10	5	64	7.89	+1.40	21	546	+216
South Central (8)												
Leavenworth	83	42	65	+4	0.87	4		9.46	+2.35	20	550	+222
Oolitic	81	38	61	+1	2.43	4	65	8.34	+1.85	20	446	+160
Tell_City	82	40	65	+2	0.24	3		9.60	+2.23	16	619	+233
Southeast (9)												
Brookville	82	36	60	+1	1.41	4		5.44	-0.84	17	432	+193
Greensburg	82	41	62	+2	1.42	2		6.14	-0.45	17	527	+253
Seymour	81	36	60	-2	2.26	3		7.15	+0.87	16	446	+150

DFN = Departure From Normal.
GDD = Growing Degree Days.
Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) in inches.
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

For more weather information, visit www.awis.com
or call 1-888-798-9955.

begins to pay for itself as the fledgling first nodal roots begin to tap into that fertilizer band sometime after the 2-leaf stage. Remember that prior to this leaf stage, young seedlings are relying primarily on the kernel reserves and do not use much additional soil nutrients. As the kernel reserves "play out" and the first few nodal roots tap into the starter band around the 2-leaf stage, the so-called "starter kick" begins to occur and seedling appearance will begin to improve by the 4- to 5-leaf stage of development.

The good news is that if the plants "hang in there" until they reach the five or six leaf stage, a miraculous turn of events usually occurs. The final leaf is created at the main growing point of the plant (near the top of the "pyramid" of stalk tissue) and the plant turns its attention toward developing the reproductive structures known as the tassel and ears.

At the same time, the size of the photosynthetic "factory" and its supporting staff of roots is reaching a critical mass that is finally capable of manufacturing greater and greater amounts of energy. With greater amounts of available energy, the "factory" begins to convert more and more of the incoming nutrients and carbon dioxide into sugars, starches, and other plant dry matter.

Yellow-green corn seedlings; late V2 to early V3 stage of development.

Subsequently, the stalk begins to elongate rapidly, the roots begin to develop rapidly, the tassel develops rapidly, the tiny ears within the ear shoots develop rapidly, and suddenly the plant is growing like wildfire. From about knee-high corn to the onset of pollination, the corn crop progresses through its most rapid growth phase (above- and below-ground), including the uptake of the lion's share of soil nutrients for use during the grain fill period.

By now you may be wondering what's the moral of this story?

Primarily, it's a reminder to take time once in a while to look at this King of Crops with a certain amount of awe and wonder.

Secondarily, be reminded that an ugly duckling of a corn crop that reaches the five to six leaf stage in reasonably good condition will usually turn the corner and become a beautiful swan of a corn crop during the next few weeks.

Thirdly, be reminded that true yield potential is just beginning to be determined at the start of this rapid growth phase. Ugly corn up to this point in time has not necessarily lost its yield potential. Ear size is determined from about knee-high to shoulder-high corn. Weather during pollination and grain fill finish off the yield determination.

While we often moan and complain about the looks of young corn, it often surprises us with acceptable yields in the fall.

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The INDIANA CROP & WEATHER REPORT (USPS 675-770), (ISSN43-817X) is issued weekly April through November by the USDA, NASS Indiana Field Office, 1435 Win Hentschel Blvd, Suite 110, West Lafayette, IN 47906-4151. For information on subscribing, send request to above address. POSTMASTER: Send address change to the USDA, NASS, Indiana Field Office, 1435 Win Hentschel Blvd, 04Suite 110, West Lafayette, IN 47906-4151.